

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/007,696

Examiner

Merilyn P. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

TESSMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2163

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview on April 3, 2006 and April 13, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-17, 22-26, 28-39, 41-48 and 60 and now renumbered as 1-42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

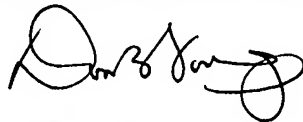
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



**DON WONG**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

Art Unit: 2163

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. In response to the communication dated April 3, 2006 and April 13, 2006, claims 1-5, 7-17, 22-26, 28-39, 41-48 and 60 are active in this application as the result of the cancellation of claims 6, 18-20, 27 and 40 and in the condition for allowance.

2. This application claims benefit of US provisional application 60/251,834 filed on December 8, 2000.

***Examiner's Amendment***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomas Rozylowicz, Reg. No. 50,620 on 04/03/06 and in further telephone interview with Mr. Dmitry Brant whom is working under permission of Mr. Thomas Rozylowicz on 04/13/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. A method of identifying a storage path used to store digital images within a computer system comprising:

identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

Art Unit: 2163

generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generating a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers;

[[and]]

identifying the storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths; and

storing the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

6. (Cancelled).

7. The method of claim [[6]] 1 further comprising generating and storing lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

15. A digital image storage apparatus, comprising a host configured to:  
identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generating a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers;

[[and]]

Art Unit: 2163

identifying a storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths; and  
storing the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

16. A computer program, stored on a computer readable [[medium]] storage device on a host, comprising instructions for:

identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image;

generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory;

generating a second image identifier comprising a random number;

generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers;

[[and]]

identifying a storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths; and

storing the digital image in the first storage facility at the identified storage path.

17. The computer program of claim 16 wherein the computer readable [[medium]] storage device comprising a disk.

18-20. (Cancelled).

Art Unit: 2163

27. (Cancelled).

28. The apparatus of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 15 wherein the host further comprises a host configured to generate and store lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

40. (Cancelled).

41. The computer program of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 16 further comprising generating and storing lower resolution thumbnails at the identified storage path.

**Allowable subject matter**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

None of the references of record Stewart (US Patent No. 6,389,460) and Lee (US Patent No. 6,381,629) teaches or suggests the claimed (Claims 1, 15, and 16) invention having, in addition to the other limitations in the claims, the limitation of identifying a storage path used to store digital images within a computer system comprising generating a second image identifier comprising a random number, generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers and identifying the storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value wherein related digital images have unrelated storage paths.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2163

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

### ***Conclusion***

6. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the day of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see M.P.E.P 710.02(b)).

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rabii U.S 2002/0032691 discloses high performance efficient subsystem for data object storage.

Reynolds U.S 2002/0055942 discloses creating, verifying, managing, and using original digital files.

Carney U.S Patent No. 6,061,693 discloses system and method for retrieving and updating configuration parameter values for application programs in a computer network.

Mattis U.S Patent No. 6,292,880 discloses alias-free content-indexed object cache.

Stewart U.S Patent No. 6,675,214 discloses method and apparatus for efficient storage and retrieval of objects in and from an object storage device.

Art Unit: 2163

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Merilyn P Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4026.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30 - 5:00.

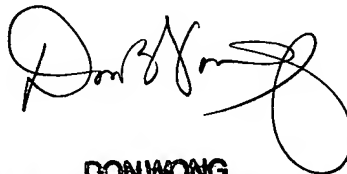
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



MN

April 17, 2006



**DON WONG**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**